

## PRA

PRACTISER. *n. f.* [from *practise*.]

1. One that practises any thing; one that does any thing habitually.

We will, in the principles of the politician, shew how little efficacy they have to advance the *practiser* of them to the things they aspire to. *South's Sermons.*

2. One who prescribes medical treatment.

Sweet *practiser*, thy physick I will try,  
That ministers thine own death if I die. *Shakespeare.*  
I had reasoned myself into an opinion, that the use of physicians, unless in some acute disease, was a great venture, and that their greatest *practisers* practised least upon themselves. *Temple.*PRACTITIONER. *n. f.* [from *practise*.]

1. He who is engaged in the actual exercise of any art.

The author exhorts all gentlemen *practitioners* to exercise themselves in the transitory. *Arbutnot.*I do not know a more universal and unnecessary mistake among the clergy, but especially the younger *practitioners*. *Sw.*

2. One who uses any ly or dangerous arts.

There is some papistical *practitioners* among you. *Whitgift.*

3. One who does any thing habitually.

He must be first an exercised, thorough-paced *practitioner* of these vices himself. *South's Sermons.*PRÆCOGNITA. *n. f.* [Latin.] Things previously known in order to understanding something else; thus the structure of the human body is one of the *præcognita* of physick.Either all knowledge does not depend on certain *præcognita* or general maxims, called principles, or else these are principles. *Locke.*PRAGMA'TICK. *adj.* [πράγματις; *pragmaticus*, Fr.]PRAGMA'TICAL. *adj.* Meddling; impertinently busy; assuming business without leave or invitation.No sham to grofs, but it will pass upon a weak man that is *pragmatical* and inquisitive. *L'Estrange.*Common estimation puts an ill character upon *pragmatical* meddling people. *Government of the Tongue.*He understands no more of his own affairs, than a child; he has got a sort of a *pragmatical* silly jade of a wife, that pretends to take him out of my hands. *Arbutnot.*The fellow grew to *pragmatical*, that he took upon him the government of my whole family. *Arbutnot.*Such a backwardness there was among good men to engage with an usurping people, and *pragmatical* ambitious orators. *Swift.*They are *pragmatical* enough to stand on the watch tower, but who assigned them the post? *Swift.*PRAGMA'TICALLY. *adv.* [from *pragmatical*.] Meddlingly; impertinently.PRAGMA'TICALNESS. *n. f.* [from *pragmatical*.] The quality of intermeddling without right or call.PRAISE. *n. f.* [prijs, Dutch.]

1. Renown; commendation; fame; honour; celebrity.

Best of fruits, whose taste has taught  
The tongue, not made for speech, to speak thy praise. *Milt.*Lucan, content with praise, may lie at ease  
In costly groves and marble palaces;  
But to poor Bassus what avails a name,  
To have on compliments and empty fame. *Dryden.*

2. Glorification; tribute of gratitude; laud.

He hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God. *Psaln xl. 3.*

To God glory and praise.

3. Ground or reason of praise.

Praiseworthy actions are by thee embrac'd;  
And 'tis my praise to make thy praises last. *Dryden.*To PRAISE. *v. a.* [prijsen, Dutch.]

1. To commend; to applaud; to celebrate.

Will God incense his ire  
For such a petty trespass, and not praise  
Rather your dauntless virtue. *Milton.*We praise not Hector, though his name we know  
Is great in arms; 'tis hard to praise a foe. *Dryden.*

2. To glorify in worship.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen. *Luke ii. 20.*One generation shall praise thy works to another, and declare thy mighty works. *Psaln cxlv. 4.*Their touch'd their golden harps, and hymning praise'd God and his works. *Milton.*PRAISEFUL. *adj.* [praise and full.] Laudable; commendable.

Not now in use.

Of whose high praise, and praiseful bliss,  
Goodness the pen, heaven the paper is. *Sidney.*He ordain'd a lady for his priest;  
Generally praiseful, fair and young, and skill'd in housewiferies.PRAISER. *n. f.* [from *praise*.] One who praises; an applauder; a commender.We men and *praisers* of men should remember, that if we have such excellencies, it is reason to think them excellent creatures, of whom we are. *Sidney.*

## PRA

Forgive me, if my verse but say you are

A Sidney; but in that extend as far

As loudest *praisers*. *B. Johnson's Epig.*

Turn to God, who knows I think this true,

And such oft, when such a heart mislays,

To make it good; for such a *praiser* prays. *Donne.*PRAISEWORTHY. *adj.* [praise and worthy.] Commendable; deserving praise.

The Tritonian goddess having heard

Her blazed fame, which all the world had fill'd,

Came down to prove the truth, and due reward

For her *praiseworthy* workmanship to yield. *Spenser.*Since men have left to do *praiseworthy* things,

Most think all praises flatteries; but truth brings

That found, and that authority with her name,

As to be rais'd by her is only fame. *Ben. Johnson.*Firmus, who seized upon Egypt, was so far *praiseworthy*,that he encouraged trade. *Arbutnot on Cato.*PRAME. *n. f.* A flat bottomed boat.To PRANCE. *v. a.* [pronken, Dutch, to set one's self to show.]

1. To spring and bound in high merrile.

Here's no fantastick mask, nor dance,

But of our kids that frisk and *prance*;

Nor wars are seen,

Unless upon the green,

Two harmless lambs are butting one the other. *Wotton.*

With mud fill'd high, the rumbling cart draws near,

Now rule thy *prancing* steeds, lac'd charioteer. *Gay.*

Far be the spirit of the chase from them,

To spring the fence, to rein the *prancing* steed. *Thoufn.*

2. To ride gallantly and ostentatiously.

The horses' hoofs were broken by means of the *prancings*,the *prancings* of their mighty ones. *Judges v. 22.*

I see

Th' insulting tyrant, *prancing* o'er the field,

Strow'd with Rome's citizens, and drench'd in slaughter,

His horses' hoofs wet with patrician blood. *Addison.*

3. To move in a warlike or showy manner.

We should neither have meat to eat, nor manufacture to clothe us, unless we could *prance* about in coats of mail, or eat brass. *Swift.*To PRANK. *v. a.* [pronken, Dutch.] To decorate; to dress or adjust to ostentation.Some *prank* their ruffs, and others timely dightTheir gay attire. *Fairy Queen.*

In wine and meats she flow'd above the bank,

And in excess exceeded her own night,

In sumptuous tire the joy'd herself to *prank*,But of her love too lavish. *Fairy Queen.*

These are tribunes of the people,

The tongues o' th' common mouth: I despise them;

For they do *prank* them in authorityAgainst all noble sufferance. *Shakespeare.*

Your high self,

The gracious mark o' th' land, you have obscur'd

With a swain's wearing; and me, poor lowly maid,

Most goddess-like *prank'd* up. *Shakespeare. Winter's Tale.*

'Tis that miracle, and queen of gems,

That nature *pranks*, her mind attracts my soul. *Shakespeare.*

I had not unlock'd my lips

In this unhallowed air, but that this jugler

Would think to charm my judgment as mine eyes,

Obtruding false rules, *pranks* in reason's garb. *Milton.*PRANK. *n. f.* A frolick; a wild flight; a ludicrous trick; a wicked act.

Lay home to him;

Tell him, his *pranks* have been too broad to bear with. *Shakespeare.*

Such is thy audacious wickedness,

Thy lewd, pestiferous and diffidentious *pranks*;The very infants prattle of thy pride. *Shakespeare.*

They caus'd the table to be covered and meat set on, which

was no sooner set down, than in came the harpies, and played

their accustomed *pranks*. *Raleigh.*They put on their cloaths, and played all those *pranks* youhave taken notice of. *Addison's Guardian.*PRA'ISON. *n. f.* [πράισον.] A leek; also a sea weed as green as a leek.To PRATE. *v. n.* [praten, Dutch.] To talk carelessly and without weight; to chatter; to tattle; to be loquacious; to prattle.His knowledge or skill is in *prating* too much. *Tupper.*

Behold me, which owe

A moiety of the throne, here standing

To *prate* and talk for life and honour, foreWho please to hear. *Shakespeare. Winter's Tale.*This starved justice hath *prated* to me of the wildness of

his youth, and the feats he hath done about Turnbal-street

and every third word a lie. *Shakespeare. Henry IV. p. ii.*After Flammock and the blacksmith had, by joint and several *pratings*, found tokens of consent in the multitude, theyoffered themselves to lead them. *Bacon's Henry VII.*

Oh listen with attentive fight

To what my *prating* eyes indite! *Chaucer.*

What

## PRA

What nonsense would the fool thy master *prate*,When thou, his knave, can't talk at such a rate. *Dryden.*

She first did wit's prerogative remove,

And made a fool presume to *prate* of love. *Dryden.*This is the way of the world; the deaf will *prate* of discords in music.PRATE. *n. f.* [from the verb.] Tattle; slight talk; unmeaning loquacity.If I talk to him; with his innocent *prate*,He will awake my mercy which lies dead. *Shakespeare.*Would her innocent *prate* could overcome me;Oh! what a conflict do I feel. *Denham's Sophy.*PRATER. *n. f.* [from *prate*.] An idle talker; a chatterer.

When expectation rages in my blood,

Is this a time, thou *prater*; hence be gone. *Southern.*PRATTICLY. *adv.* [from *prate*.] With tittle tattle; with loquacity.PRATTIQUE. *n. f.* [French; *prattica*, Italian.] A licence for the master of a ship to traffick in the ports of Italy upon a certificate, that the place, from whence he came, is not annoyed with any infectious disease.To PRATTLE. *v. n.* [diminutive of *prate*.] To talk lightly; to chatter; to be trivially loquacious.But I *prattle*

Something too wildly, and my father's precepts

I therein do forget. *Shakespeare's Tempest.*What the great ones do, the less will *prattle* of. *Shakespeare.*A French woman teaches an English girl to speak and read French, by only *prattling* to her. *Locke.*There is not so much pleasure to have a child *prattle* agreeably, as to reason well. *Locke on Education.*His tongue, his *prattling* tongue, had chang'd him quiteTo sooty blackness, from the purest white. *Ad. Ovid.*A little lively ruffick, trained up in ignorance and prejudice, will *prattle* treason a whole evening. *Addison.*I must *prattle* on,

And beg your pardon, yet this half hour.

Let credulous boys and *prattling* nurses tell,

How if the festival of Paul be clear,

Plenty from lib'ral horn shall flow the year. *Gay.*PRATTLE. *n. f.* [from the verb.] Empty talk; trifling loquacity.

In a theatre the eyes of men,

After a well-grac'd actor leaves the stage,

Are idly bent on him that enters next,

Thinking his *prattle* to be tedious. *Shakespeare. Rich. II.*

The bookish theorick,

Wherein the tog'd confus'd can propose

As masterly as he; mere *prattle*, without practice,Is all his soldierish. *Shakespeare. Othello.*The insignificant *prattle* and endless garrulity of the philosophy of the schools.PRATTLER. *n. f.* [from *prattle*.] A trifling talker; a chatterer.Poor *prattler*! how thou talk'st?

Prattler, no more, I say;

My thoughts must work, but like a noiseless sphere,

Harmonious peace must rock them all the day;

No room for *prattlers* there. *Herbert.*PRATTY. *n. f.* [prattias, Lat.] Corruption; badness; malignity.

Doubt not but that sin

Will reign among them, as of thee begot;

And therefore was law given them, to convince

Their natural *pravity*. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. xii.*More people go to the gibbet for want of timely correction, than upon any incurable *pravity* of nature. *L'Estrange.*I will shew how the *pravity* of the will could influence the understanding to a disbelief of Christianity. *South.*PRAWN. *n. f.* A small crustaceous fish, like a shrimp, but larger.I had *prawns*, and borrowed a morsel of vinegar. *Shakespeare.*To PRAY. *v. n.* [prier, Fr. *pregare*, Italian.]

1. To make petitions to heaven.

I will buy with you, sell will you; but I will not eat with you, drink with you, nor pray with you. *Shakespeare.*Pray for this good man and his office. *Shakespeare.*

Ne'er throughout the year to church thou go'st,

Except it be to *pray* against thy foes. *Shakespeare.*I tell him, we shall stay here at the least a month; and he heartily *prays*, some occasion may detain us longer. *Shakespeare.*Is any sick? let him call for the elders of the church, and let them *pray* over him. *Jam. v. 14.*Unskillful with what words to *pray*, let meInterpret for him. *Milton.*He that *prays*, despairs not; but sad is the condition of him that cannot *pray*; happy are they that can, and do, and love to do it. *Taylor's Guide to Devotion.*

Thou, Turnus, shalt atone it by thy fate,

And *pray* to heav'n for peace, but *pray* too late. *Dryden.*He prais'd my courage, *pray'd* for my success;

He was to true a father of his country,

To thank me for defending ev'n his foes. *Dryden.*

## PRE

Should you *pray* to God for a recovery, how rash would it be to accuse God of not hearing your prayers, because you found your disease still to continue. *Wake.*

2. To entreat; to ask submissively.

You shall find

A conqueror that will *pray* in aid for kindness,Where he for grace is kneel'd to. *Shakespeare.*

Pray that in towns and temples of renown,

The name of great Anchises may be known. *Dryden.*

3. I PRAY; that is, I pray you to tell me is a slightly ceremonious form of introducing a question.

But I *pray*, in this mechanical formation, when the ferment was expanded to the extremities of the arteries, why did it not break through the receptacle? *Bentley's Sermons.*4. Sometimes only *pray* elliptically.

Barnard in spirit, sense and truth abounds;

Pray then what wants he? fourscore thousand pounds. *Pope.*To PRAY. *v. a.*

1. To supplicate; to implore; to address with submissive petitions.

How much more, if we *pray* him, will his earBe open, and his heart to pity incline? *Milton.*

2. To ask for as a supplicant.

He that will have the benefit of this act, must *pray* a prohibition before a sentence in the ecclesiastical court. *Aliff.*

3. To entreat in ceremony or form.

Pray my colleague Antonius I may speak with him;

And as you go, call on my brother Quintus,

And *pray* him with the tribunes to come to me. *B. Johnson.*PRAYER. *n. f.* [priere, Fr.]

1. Petition to heaven.

They did say their *prayers*, and address'd themAgain to sleep. *Shakespeare. Macbeth.*

O remember, God!

O hear her *prayer* for them as now for us. *Shakespeare.*

Were he as famous and as bold in war,

As he is fam'd for mildness, peace and *prayer*. *Shakespeare.*My heart's desire and *prayer* to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. *Remans x. 1.*

Sighs now breath'd

Inutterable, which the spirit of *prayer*Inspir'd. *Milton.*No man can always have the same spiritual pleasure in his *prayers*; for the greatest saints have sometimes suffered the banishment of the heart, sometimes are fervent, sometimes they feel a barrenness of devotion; for this spirit comes and goes. *Taylor's Guide to Devotion.*

2. Entreaty; submissive importunity.

Prayer among men is supposed a means to change the person to whom we pray; but prayer to God doth not change him, but fits us to receive the things prayed for. *Stillfleet.*PRA'YERBOOK. *n. f.* [prayer and book.] Book of publick or private devotions.Get a *prayerbook* in your hand,

And stand between two churchmen;